

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for distributing a content, comprising:
an identification certificate containing a template
serving as identification data of a user receiving a
content;

container information in which a content transaction
condition is set including an identification certificate
identifier list associating with said identification
certificate;

a content key for enciphering a content;
a secure container including the content enciphered
with the content key and said container information;

a content distributor for distributing the content by
moving said secure container;

at least one user device for transacting the content
with said content distributor;

whereby user authentication is performed in accordance
with the identification certificate identified on the basis
of the identification certificate identifier list when said
secure container is moved, so that the content usable on
said user device is distributed with content transaction
managed.

2. A system for distributing a content according to

Claim. 1, wherein said identification certificate is issued by an identification authority, third party organization.

3. A system for distributing a content according to Claim. 1, wherein said container information further includes data in which the condition of secondary distribution is set, the secondary distribution redistributing the content after first distribution.

4. A system for distributing a content according to Claim. 1, wherein said content distributor is a service provider distributing said secure container, the service provider authenticating a user of said user device receiving said secure container through comparing the template contained in said identification certificate identified on the basis of the identification certificate identifier list with sampling information input by the user, subsequently allowing the content to be used on said user device, provided that the user has been authenticated.

5. A system for distributing a content according to Claim. 1, wherein said content distributor is a service provider distributing said secure container, and the service provider authenticates a user of said user device receiving said secure container by comparing the template contained in

said identification certificate identified on the basis of the identification certificate identifier list with sampling information input by the user, subsequently distributing said content key with which the content contained in said secure container was enciphered, provided that the user has been authenticated.

6. A system for distributing a content according to Claim. 1, wherein said content distributor is a service provider distributing said secure container, and said user device receiving said secure container authenticates a user thereof by comparing the template contained in the identification certificate identified on the basis of the identification certificate identifier list with sampling information input by the user, subsequently informing the service provider of the user authentication result, and thus the service provider allows the content to be used on said user device, provided that the user has been authenticated.

7. A system for distributing a content according to Claim. 1, wherein said content distributor is a service provider distributing said secure container, and said user device receiving secure container authenticates a user thereof by comparing the template contained in the identification certificate identified on the basis of the

identification certificate identifier list with sampling information input by the user, subsequently informing the service provider of the user authentication, thereby the service provider distributing to said user device said secure container and said content key with which the content contained in said secure container was enciphered, provided that the user has been authenticated.

8. A system for distributing a content according to Claim. 1, wherein said content distributor is a service provider and said at least one user device comprises a plurality of user devices, and said identification certificate is previously contained in the service provider or a user device that is to perform the user authentication, said identification certificate being to be used for user authentication performed when said secure container is moved between the service provider and a user device and between user devices.

9. A system for distributing a content according to Claim. 1, wherein said content distributor is a service provider and said at least one user device comprises a plurality of user devices, and said identification certificate is acquired from an identification authority, identification certificate issuer, by the service provider

or a user device that is to perform the user authentication, the identification certificate being to be used for user authentication performed when the secure container is moved between the service provider and a user device and between user devices.

10. A system for distributing a content according to Claim. 1, wherein said container information further includes data for permitting content use including reproduction and copying, thereby allowing said user device receiving the secure container to use the content under the restriction of content use in accordance with the data for permitting content use.

11. A system for distributing a content according to Claim. 1, wherein said secure container further includes a digital signature provided by a secure container producer.

12. A system for distributing a content according to Claim. 1, wherein the identification certificate identifier list includes data associating an identifier of a content user with a identification certificate identifier of the user.

13. A system for distributing a content according to

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15. A method of distributing a content, comprising:
the step of distributing a content by moving a secure
container including the content enciphered with a content
key and container information in which a content transaction
condition is set including an identification certificate

identifier list associating with an identification certificate containing a template serving as identification data of a user to which a content is distributed; and

the step of performing user authentication in accordance with the identification certificate identified on the basis of the identification certificate identifier list when the secure container is moved to distribute the content,

whereby the content usable on a user device is distributed with content transaction managed.

16. A method of distributing a content according to Claim. 15, wherein the identification certificate is issued by an identification authority, third party organization.

17. A method of distributing a content according to Claim. 15, wherein the container information includes data in which the condition of secondary distribution is set, the secondary distribution redistributing the content after first distribution.

18. A method of distributing a content according to Claim. 15, wherein, in said step of performing user authentication, a service provider distributing a secure container compares the template contained in the identification certificate identified on the basis of the

identification certificate identifier list with sampling information input by a user of a secure container receiving device, thereby authenticating the user, and said method further comprises:

the step in which the service provider allows a content to be used on the secure container receiving device, provided that the user has been authenticated.

19. A method of distributing a content according to Claim. 15, wherein, in said step of performing user authentication, a service provider distributing the secure container compares the template contained in the identification certificate identified on the basis of the identification certificate identifier list with sampling information input by a user of a secure container receiving device, thereby authenticating the user, and said method further comprises:

the step in which the service provider distributes the content key with which the content contained in the secure container was enciphered, provided that the user has been authenticated.

20. A method of distributing a content according to Claim. 15, wherein, in said step of performing user authentication, a user device receiving secure container

authenticates a user thereof by comparing the template contained in the identification certificate identified on the basis of the identification certificate identifier list with sampling information input by the user, and said method further comprises:

the step in which the user device informs the service provider distributing the secure container of the user authentication according to said step of performing user authentication; and

the step in which the service provider allows the content to be used on the secure container receiving device, provided that the user has been authenticated.

21. A method of distributing a content according to Claim. 15, wherein, in said step of performing user authentication, a user device receiving the secure container authenticates a user thereof by comparing the template contained in the identification certificate identified on the basis of the identification certificate identifier list with sampling information input by the user, and said method comprises:

the step in which the user device informs the service provider distributing the secure container of the user authentication according to said step of performing user authentication;

the step in which the service provider distributes the secure container to the user device, provided that the user of the user device has been authenticated; and

the step in which the service provider distributes the content key with which the content contained in the secure container was enciphered, provided that the user of the user device has been authenticated.

22. A method of distributing a content according to Claim. 15, wherein the identification certificate which is to be used for user authentication performed when the secure container is moved between a service provider and a user device and between user devices is previously contained in the service provider or a user device that is to perform the user authentication.

23. A method of distributing a content according to Claim. 15, wherein the identification certificate which is to be used for user authentication performed when the secure container is moved between a service provider and a user device and between user devices is acquired from an identification authority, identification certificate issuer, by the service provider or a user device that is to perform the user authentication.

24. A method of distributing a content according to Claim. 15, wherein the container information further includes data for permitting content use including reproduction and copying, thereby allowing a secure container receiving device to use the content under the restriction of content use in accordance with the data for permitting content use.

25. A method of distributing a content according to Claim. 15, wherein each of the service provider and user devices transacting a content has an encryption processing unit, and said method further comprises:

the step in which user devices authenticate one another when data are transmitted therebetween;

the step in which a data-transmitting user device generates a digital signature to data to be transmitted; and

the step in which a data-receiving user device verifies the digital signature.

26. An information processing apparatus for distributing a content by moving a secure container including a content enciphered with the content key and container information, in which a content transaction condition is set, including an identification certificate identifier list associating with an identification

a section for performing user authentication through comparing the template contained in the identification certificate identified on the basis of the identification certificate identifier list with sampling information input by a user of a secure container receiving device; and

27. An information processing apparatus according to Claim. 26, further comprising a section for distributing the content key with which the content contained in the secure container was enciphered, provided that the user has been authenticated.

28. An information processing apparatus for receiving a content by moving a secure container including a content enciphered with the content key and container information, in which a content transaction condition is set, including an identification certificate identifier list associating with an identification certificate containing a template serving as identification data of a user to which the

content is distributed, said apparatus comprising:

a section for performing user authentication through comparing the template contained in the identification certificate identified on the basis of the identification certificate identifier list with sampling information input by a user thereof; and

a section for informing a secure container distributor of the user authentication.

29. A medium for providing a computer program for managing a content transaction to distribute a content usable on a user device, said program comprising:

distributing a content by moving a secure container including a content enciphered with a content key and a container information in which a content transaction condition is set, the container information including an identification certificate identifier list associating with a identification certificate containing a template serving as identification data of a user receiving the content.

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